To the KING and Both Houſes of PARLIAMENT.

Here are ſome of our Sufferings and Grievances laid before you, in the Wiſdom of God, to take into your Conſideration, and to Relieve Us.

First, BY taking off from us thoſe Laws that have been made againſt PAPISTS, *viz.* That of 20 *l.* a Month, and that of two thirds of Eſtates; And all thoſe Laws that have been unjuſtly layed upon us; and ſome they have Impriſoned, and others they have ſpoyled their Goods, and taken more then the Annual value of the Rent of their Land, though they be Copy-holders, which is Contrary to the Rule of Court, (as it is ſaid,) and ſo have made no difference of Copy-hold and Free-hold Eſtates; and of them that be true and real PROTESTANTS, and not PAPISTS, to the almoſt Spoyling and Ruining of many Families.

And therefore we deſire that you would make a diſtinction betwixt tender Conſciences, *diſſenting Proteſtants*, & *Papiſts*.

Secondly, Beſides theſe late Laws that have been made againſt us, for Baniſhing of us; And for meeting together, to worſhip God, which hath been counted a ſufficient crime (if we confeſſed we met together, to worſhip God in Spirit and in Truth, as CHRIST Commanded above Sixteen Hundred years ſince,) to Baniſh us, ruine and ſpoyl our goods; Whereby many have been made Widows, and Fatherleſs.

Thirdly, Likewiſe the late Act againſt *Conventicles*, *viz.* 20 *l.* the Speaker, and 20 *l.* the Houſe, and 5 *s.* or 10 *s.* for every hearer, and all for worſhiping of God in Spirit and in Truth; for doing ſo, hath been looked upon to be a Crime enough to ſpoyl our goods; And you cannot be unſenſible what a multitude of Families are almoſt ruined, and their goods ſpoyled, both without and within; ſo that ſeveral at this time have not a Bed to lie upon.

Fourthly, And we hope you are not unſenſible of the Debauchery of the youth and People, and of their Debauched Meetings, and their Curſings and Daming Oaths, and Swearing to the Diſhonour of God, and true Chriſtianity, and to the grief of them that fear God, in this Land, and how many Judgments God hath brought upon it, for its Sins and Iniquities.

Fifthly, And you are not Ignorant; what Poor, Deſolate and Deſperate rude wicked men, are, and have been informers up and down the Nation, and you know, let them be what Informers they will, the Juſtices, Mayors, and Baylifs muſt obey them, or elſe they forfeit 100 *l.* each of them; and alſo the Conſtables and other Officers 5 *l.*

Sixthly, And alſo we do believe, that you are not unſenſible how many Hundreds of our Friends are caſt into Priſon in the Nation, by *Biſhops* and *Prieſts*, by Writ of *Excommunicato capiendo*, and ſome kept till death; ſo that many are made Widows, and Fatherleſs; and truly the Cry of all theſe things is entred in the Ears of the Lord of *Hoſtes*, *James* the 5. And therefore ſee how contrary their practices are to the command of Chriſt, who ſaid to his Miniſters, *go without a Bagg or a Staff*, freely ye have received, freely give; And now ſee who will go without Staff and Bagg, and not force People to put into it; and the Apoſtle ſaid, *a Biſhop muſt be no Striker, nor Fighter, nor Covetous, nor given to filthy lucre, but gentle*, Timothy the 3.

And again *Paul* Wrote to *Titus*, that a Biſhop *muſt be unreprovable, as a good Steward, not froward nor angry, no Striker, not given to filthy lucre*, Titus the 1.

And the Elders that were to feed the Flock, *they were to do it willingly not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind, not as Lords over Gods heritage, but Examples to the Flock*, 1 Peter and the 5.

And the Apoſtle ſaid, *he had coveted no* Mans Silver nor Gold, nor Apparel, *but ye know that theſe Hands have Miniſtred to my neceſſities, and to them that were with me*; and that it was a bleſſed thing to give rather then receive, *Acts* the 20*th*.

Now we deſire the Biſhops and Prieſts, that ſay the *Scripture* is their Rule, to ſee how their doings are ſhort of this Doctrine, and practice of *Chriſt* and his *Apoſtles*, let the Courts and Goals, and the ſpoyling of Goods witneſs, for where did *Chriſt* and his *Apoſtles*, caſt any into Priſon, and Spoyl their goods, for means and wages.

Seventhly, And you are not unſenſible how that many of the true PROTESTANT DISSENTERS, in the Nation, are *Excommunicated*, ſo that they are Barred from all *Juſtice*, *Right*, and *Law*, both to themſelves, and others.

Eightly, And we have ſuffered greatly, both in Eſtates and Perſons, becauſe we cannot Swear, which is in obedience to *Chriſt* and the *Apoſtles Doctrine*, that forbid all Oaths and Swearing, and ſets up *yea* and *nay* in the Room of it; And we declare both to King and Parliament, what we can ſay inſtead of an Oath, that if we break our *yea* and *nay* when we are called to any Office, or Evidence, to teſtifie the truth in any cauſe, then let us ſuffer the ſame Puniſhment, as Perjured Perſons do that break their Oath, and this is our true *Chriſtian* PROTESTANT Teſtimony unto you.

And we alſo believe you know that many ſuffered in *Holland*, for refuſing to take an Oath before the Magiſtrates in *Holland* made a Law, that thoſe who ſcrupled an Oath, their *yea* and *nay* ſhould be taken inſtead of an Oath, in regard of their tender conſciences, which now our friends there have the benefit of, in which they are ſervicable to their Generation; and this thing we intreat you to take into Conſideration, for God almighty knows, that it is not in wilfullneſs, ſtubborneſs, or Rebellion, that we refuſe to Swear; But in tenderneſs and obedience to the command of *Chriſt Jeſus* and his *Apoſtles*.

Ninthly, And you are not unſenſible, when that we are called to teſtifie the truth in many caſes, not only in that which concerneth our ſelves, but that which concerneth you, and others, are like to ſuffer, becauſe we in obedience to *Chriſts* command cannot Swear; Here you and we ſuffer and loſe our Rights, and cannot have Juſtice and Law, and not only ſo, but looſe our ſervice in our Creation and Generation. And remember the Chriſtians in the ten Perſecutions, becauſe they could not Swear, they put a mark upon him, and ſaid *he is a Chriſtian, and will not Swear*; And is it not hard, that Chriſtians now ſhould be perſecuted, and Impriſoned, and the Goods ſpoyled by profeſt Chriſtians, becauſe they will not Swear and take Oath, and yet they are willing to ſuffer the ſame puniſhment, as Perjured Perſons that break their Oaths, if they break their *yea* and *nay*.

Tenthly, And ſince that we in the Country have given our Votes for ſuch Parliament men, as we judged to be ſober and real Proteſtants, and had a ſence of the Grievances of the People; we have ſuffered much more, then we did before, both by the Laws that are made againſt *Papiſts*; The 20 *l. per* Month, and two thirds of our Eſtates, and that of *Conventicles* by Informers, that many are almoſt ruined in their Eſtates, and ſo we deſire you to take off theſe ſufferings from us, and Relieve us in theſe things.

From them who deſires your Eternal Good and Happineſs, in Chriſt Jeſus; And the bleſſing of God *upon this* Nation, *who are ſufferers for good Conſcience-ſake.*

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